

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 27, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fredrickson et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,799) in view of *Dietrich, Jr. et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,457,789) in further view of *Tanaka et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,845,438); and rejected claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fredrickson et al.* in view of *Dietrich, Jr. et al.* in further view of *Tanaka et al.* in still further view of *Hogan* (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,961).

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 17, 20, and 23. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-17, and 19-23 remain pending in this application. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-17, and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 23 to add the recitation wherein “the redundant part is preset as an area in which reading by a file system of the device is prevented.” Support for this recitation may be found on page 86 of the Specification. As is further set forth on page 86 of the Specification, by providing the integrity check value (ICV) in the redundant area, the need for providing the ICV in the data part of the storage means is eliminated, thereby allowing for greater use of the data part and the maintaining of continuity of data reading.

On the contrary, in the cited prior art of record, the file system of the device is not prevented from reading the redundant part of the storage means. For example,

Fredrickson et al. specifically discloses wherein the redundant data part of the storage device is read back by the file system of the device. (See *Fredrickson et al.*, 2:62-67.) *Dietrich, Jr. et al.* and *Tanaka et al.* also fail to disclose this recitation. In fact, both are wholly silent on the storing of an ICV in a redundant area.

Fredrickson et al., *Dietrich, Jr. et al.* and *Tanaka et al.*, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 23. For at least this reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established with respect to claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 23. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 23 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Dependent claims 3, 8, 11, 14, 19, and 22 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above in connection with independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 3, 8, 11, 14, 19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and the timely allowance of these claims.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fredrickson et al.* in view of *Dietrich, Jr. et al.* in further view of *Tanaka et al.* in still further view of *Hogan*. *Hogan* fails to teach the wherein "the redundant part is preset as an area in which reading by a file system of the device is prevented" as recited in amended independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, and 23. *Hogan* is also silent on the storing of an ICV in a redundant area. Claims 5, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, and 21 are thus allowable due to their respective dependency from independent claims 5, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, and 21.

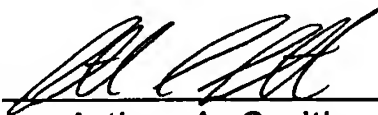
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based on the arguments presented in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The pending claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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